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# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

## ***SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION***

### ***Draft Meeting Minutes***

**MARCH 23, 2023 5:00 PM**

#### **ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS**

Karen Clopton, Chairperson  
Joseph Sweiss, Vice-Chairperson  
Vanessa R. Aquino, Commissioner  
Jayson Johnson, Commissioner  
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner  
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner  
Leah Pimentel, Commissioner  
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner  
Ann Champion Shaw, Commissioner  
Michael Sweet, Commissioner

Sheryl Evans Davis, EdD  
Executive Director

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For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-252-2500  
Agenda and other information are available on the HRC website: [www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights](http://www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights)

**Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm.**

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Commissioner Pellegrini.**

**1. 3:03 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Karen Clopton, Ann Champion Shaw, Vanessa R. Aquino, Jayson Johnson, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Michael Sweet, Joseph Sweiss, Irene Yee Riley,

**Absent:** Mark Kelleher

Meeting was called to order with 9 Commissioners present.

**2. 3:48 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** *(Discussion Item)*

Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda.

There was no public comment on this item.

**3. 4:49 ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES** *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission’s March 9, 2023 meeting.

**Public Comment**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT/ACTION**

Motion to adopt March 9, 2023 Meeting minutes as submitted: 1st Commissioner Jayson Johnson, 2nd Vice Chair Reverend Ann Champion Shaw. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**4. 6:40 STAFF INTRODUCTIONS** *(Discussion Item)*

This is time for newly hired staff to introduce themselves to the Commission.

**Presentation: Chidinma Ohanele, Evaluation & Impact Manager**, Dream Keeper Initiative, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Michelle McNeil, Illustrator & Art Designer**, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Public Comment**

Chidinma Ohanele was not able to attend, a training session they were participating in ran long.

Michelle McNeil introduced herself, previously from the San Francisco Public Library, where she created a map of every library in the SF Public Library system. She enjoys working for the Human Rights Commission and has produced media supporting Civil Rights Division, Dream Keeper Initiative, and the Office of Racial Equity.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

There was no Commissioner comment on this item.

#### **5. 9:05 UPDATES FROM THE YOUTH COMMISSION *(Discussion Item)***

Members of the San Francisco Youth Commission will present and update on Youth Commission priorities through the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

**Presentation: Yoselin Colin, Youth Commissioner, District 9, City and County of San Francisco**

**Ann Anish, Youth Commissioner, District 7, City and County of San Francisco**

**Joy Zhan, Youth Development Specialist, San Francisco Youth Commission**

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Official Presenters and the Committees they Serve:**

District 6 Commissioner Gabrielle Listana: Communications and Outreach Officer and Chair of the LGBTQ+ Task Force.

District 7 Commissioner Ann Anish, Vice Chair of the Housing, Recreation, and Transportation committee.

District 9 Commissioner Yasmin Colin, Chair of the Transformative Justice Committee

The Youth Commission was established by City Charter, open to young people ages 12 to 23, with 17 seats (11 Supervisorial Districts and 6 Mayoral appointees). There are five committees:

- Executive manages the operation of the Youth Commission, Housing, Recreation, Transit Priorities (Slow Streets, and transit stop accessibility), and V meeting for all youth (Vision Zero making recreational spaces for youth more accessible).
- Civic Engagement and Education Priorities - SFUSD funding and the Proposition G "Student Success Fund"; sexual assault and harassment in schools, reinstating the Safer Schools Task Force, upcoming Youth Summit in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Office of Sexual Harassment, Assault Response, and Prevention.
- Transformative Justice Committee Priorities - Substance abuse resources, such as Narcan availability in schools; Worked with Young Woman's Freedom Center to hold a hearing on Juvenile Hall, wrote resolutions about Juvenile Hall and met with Chief Miller. Hearing on limiting Pretext Traffic Stops, which recently passed.

- LGBTQ+ Task Force Priorities - More comprehensive LGBTQ + human development curriculum in SFUSD (especially middle schools); more LGBTQ+ resources for students including a safe space at each SFUSD school site.
- Youth Commission Report on Women’s Issues - In 2005, the Youth Commission began collaborating with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council drafting the Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco schools. In 2016 and 2017 the Safer Schools and Sexual Assault Task Force was established and drafted the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report recommendations. Starting in 2021 and ongoing today San Francisco youth leaders have held multiple walk outs, drafted a letter to the SFUSD Superintendent, Board of Education Commissioner to address reports and on March 23, 2023 District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar introduced a resolution reestablishing the Sexual Assault Task Force.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Pimentel asked if the report on sexual harassment and assault in schools will be updated by the next task force. It's been a while since one had been done.

Chair Clopton recommended they do update the report with current data, even if none of the recommendations had been implemented.

Commissioner Sweiss commended the Youth Commissioners on reconstituting the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee and would like to collaborate on a joint action or initiative.

Vice Chair Rev. Shaw commented that her daughter serves with them on the Youth Commission and was startled to hear only 5 of 24 reports of sexual harassment and assault were investigated by SFUSD.

Commissioner Sweet is also a parent to 2 teenagers and is concerned about the safety of the community, especially young people inside and outside of school, following what happened at Stonestown Mall. This has been a difficult 3 years for young people during the COVID pandemic and he recommended the Youth collaborate with Supervisor Melgar to

**6. 25:29 UPDATE FROM THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX + ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Discussion Item)**

This is time for the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee to present brief updates on the following:

- a. San Francisco Drag Laureate
- b. Queer Transgender Parent Advisory Council
- c. Anti-Transgender Hate Safety Efforts
- d. Jaxon Sales Investigation
- e. National LGBTQI+ Task Force Creating Change Conference

**Presentation: Joseph Sweiss, Commissioner, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Kelly Lou Densmore, Director, Office of Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Rick Oculito, Member, LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Michael Nguyen, Member, LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee, San Francisco Human Rights Commission**  
**Public Comment**

- a. San Francisco Drag Laureate – Commissioner Sweiss presented an update, applications have been reviewed and 4 performers selected will move on to the next part of the process with the Mayor’s Office. Thanked Devi Zinzuvadia, Victor Ruiz Cornejo and participants for their efforts. LGBTQI+ AC member Nguyen provided historical context of how this came about, when Senator Weiner was the District 8 Supervisor discussions started.
- b. Queer Transgender Parent Advisory Council – Rick Oculito presented information on how the QTPAC was created, when it was ratified (February, 2022), and asked for support getting SFUSD to activate the parent group. Commissioner Pellegrini asked to be signed onto the letter.
- c. Anti-Transgender Hate Safety Efforts – SHARP Director Densmore presented. Emergency funding supporting immediate safety needs will be added to an existing contract between SHARP and LYRIC. Funding will be distributed by LYRIC to other Trans Youth and Transitional Age Youth serving non-profit organizations experiencing safety issues.
- d. Jaxon Sales Investigation – LGBTQI+ AC member Nguyen provided context, the historical lack of police investigative response to LGBTQI+ deaths under unusual circumstances. He and Member Crisostomo and Santamaria attended a vigil organized by Jaxon Sales family on the third anniversary of his death, Jaxon disappeared on the evening of March 1 2020. The investigators ruled Jaxon’s death accidental due to an overdose of GHB, the “Date Rape” drug. His family and community are asking Chief Scott to take action. LGBTQI+ AC member Santa Maria runs a Non-profit called El/La ParaTranslatinas, we talked about how many cases there have been like Jaxon’s. How many times we have been asked to help identify someone and wasn’t informed for a few weeks because people are often times misgendered when they enter the justice system, ignored/disappear if they are undocumented. Director Densmore and the Office of SHARP have been working with Jim and Angie Sales for a year, encouraging SFUSD to keep the case open and investigate. The Salas family has filed a petition under California government govern sorry, California Government Code 2749 1.6.
- e. National LGBTQI+ Task Force Creating Change Conference – Office of SHARP Director Densmore and Policy Director Garcia, Leila Vega with Dreamkeeper’s Initiative, and Cathy Mulkey Meyer attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference. Will report back to the commissioners in more detail at a later date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Vice Chair Rev. Champion Shaw asked if there are other unsolved cases involving LGBTQI+ community members, similar to Jaxon's.

**7. 58:16 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY** (*Discussion Item*)

Commissioners update the public on activities they have participated in and any upcoming events.

**Public Comment**

**Commissioner Riley:** Attended "Our Time" celebration of women at the Ferry Building. Attended the Board of Supervisors meeting remotely on Tuesday (March 14) to listen to the African American Reparations Advisory Committee and support the Dream keeper Initiative. Attended the monthly Stand Together SF and Campaign For Solidarity meetings.

**Vice Chair Rev. Champion Shaw:** On Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, in support of sexual assault awareness month, Vice Chair Rev Shaw will attend the screening "**Triggered Life, A Requiem of Healing**" co-sponsored by the Office of SHARP and San Francisco Human Rights commission.

**Commissioner Sweet:** The Jewish celebration of Passover, the Spring celebration of renewal and freedom will take on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. As we honor this annual celebration, it is time to reflect the struggle for freedom Jewish people have experienced historically, and value the blessings of freedom that we have in San Francisco and throughout the country. Wishing his colleagues and community a happy Passover.

Saw Human Rights Commission Director Dr. Sheryl Evans Davis on CNN primetime and nationally televised, debating Reparations with the Chair of the Republican Party in San Francisco. Director Davis never spoke about it or posted, the Human Rights Commission is lucky to have her leading the Department's work.

**Chair Clopton:** On March 14 Chair Clopton attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on Reparations. The press conference and rally on the steps of City Hall, led by Reparations Chair Eric McDonald Lunch was served at City Hall for all.. The Board of Supervisors chambers, overflow room, and hallway outside in the corridor were completely full, hundreds of people participated in the hearing. Public comment was very well organized by Shakira Simley and others. Chair Clopton was blessed to speak at the beginning of the Public Comment section, supporting the Dream Keepers Initiative.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

**8. 1:06:04 ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Vice Chair Reverend Shaw, 2nd Commissioner Aquino.

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Commission Secretary, john.mcknight@sfgov.org.